

Upper Murray Community Recovery

Weekly Update - 23 March 2020

Council priority is on the health and wellbeing of the Community.

Coronavirus brings unprecedented new challenges

We know Coronavirus is the last thing our community needs, however we ask that you consider the needs of our most vulnerable residents at this time by following and adhering to the latest advice to help limit the spread of Coronavirus (or COVID-19).

Council is continuing to monitor the latest advice from State and Federal Health Departments, making changes to services as necessary. We ask for your understanding where changes occur quickly with limited notice.

We encourage residents to take every precaution to keep yourselves and your families safe during this time. This means self-isolating if you have any symptoms and maintaining physical distance (or social distancing) if you don't have symptoms.

Please continue to look out for each other. Instead of picking up the car keys to visit loved ones, pick up the phone instead. Stay informed with the most reliable information at dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

If you suspect you may have coronavirus call the dedicated hotline 1800 675 398 – open 24 hours, 7 days. Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only.

Changes to Council Services

Council has implemented a number of changes to services to help keep our staff and the community safe. We are working on ways to further evolve our services and will keep you updated.

Staff and services can continue to be reached by telephone (02) 6071 5100 and email info@towong.vic.gov.au

- **The Corryong Pool** has now closed for the season
- **Corryong Kindergarten** is currently closed due to staff availability. We will continue to provide updates if the situation changes.
- **Long Day Care Centres** remain in operation with appropriate protocols in place.
- **Council Offices and the Corryong Visitor Information Centre** are closed to walk-in visits, however help is still available over the phone or by email.
- **Corryong Elyne Mitchell Library** has now closed. The loan period for any borrowed books will automatically be extended.
- **Waste collection and Transfer Stations** continue to operate as normal with social distancing in place.
- **Public toilets** remain open and cleaned regularly.

Full details regarding Services and how Council is responding to the Pandemic is available at www.towong.vic.gov.au

Recovery Contacts

- **Towong Shire Council Recovery Helpline:** 1800 518 222 or email recovery@towong.vic.gov.au
- **Bushfire Recovery Victoria - Case Support Coordinators:** 1800 560 760 or email connect@brv.vic.gov.au
- **Register for the Bushfire Clean-Up Program:** 1800 560 760 or visit vic.gov.au/bushfire-clean-up-program
- **Resources and Updates:** Visit towong.vic.gov.au or vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-victoria

“The Towong spirit and community strength has never been greater. I know together, we will get through this.”

David Wortmann

Cr David Wortmann, Mayor

Upper Murray Recovery Hub

To help minimise the risk of the virus spreading, the Upper Murray Recovery Hub will no longer be open to visitors. Recovery staff and services can continue to be reached by telephone and email. As we adjust to a new way of working, we will be reviewing and evolving the way Recovery Services are provided. The remainder of the **Community Recovery Meetings** have now been postponed. Further updates will follow on when and how these sessions will move ahead.

New small business grants

Applications are open for the new \$10,000 Small Business Bushfire Support Grant. To be eligible, small businesses (including primary producers) must have experienced a 40% decline in revenue over a three-month period compared to the previous year. Full details at www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs/small-business-bushfire-support-grant AgBiz Financial Counsellors are available locally to give advice and help with the application. To arrange an appointment call 1300 834 775.

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